

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,354

Examiner

Alain L. Bashore

Applicant(s)

SAKURADA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-4-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-6 and 12-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ALAIN L. BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Wade on 3-2-07.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3:

Line 2: delete "a member" and insert in place – an optical member--;

Lines 3, 8, 11, and 12" before "member" insert –optical--;

Line 10: delete "when" and insert in place –wherein.

In claim 4:

Lines 2, delete "a member" and insert in place – an optical member--;

Lines 3, 8, 10 and 11: before "member" insert –optical--;

Line 10: delete "when" and insert in place –wherein.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-6, 12-17 are allowed. The drawings filed 3-4-04 are acceptable.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention includes independent claims 3, 4, and 12. Claims 3 and 4 recite a method for applying a treatment liquid onto a surface of an optical member; claim 12 recites a method for applying a liquid onto an optical lens.

Japanese patent 09-075826 ('826) is considered the closest prior art. Patent '826 discloses a method for applying a treatment liquid onto a surface of a member including applying droplets, the surface divided into a plurality of radius locations and controlling application quantity for each region by volume.

Patent '826 does not disclose the claimed combination including:

In claim 3:

wherein the application quantity for a region of the plurality of regions in a higher position on the member, in the vertical direction, is set larger than the application quantities for other regions, and

wherein the member is an upward convex shape, a curved surface of the member is divided into a plurality of substantially concentric regions, and the application quantity for a region of the plurality of regions at a more inner position of the member is set larger than the application quantities for the regions at a more

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outer position.

In claim 4:

wherein the application quantity for a region of the plurality of regions in a higher

position on the member, in the vertical direction, is set larger than the application quantities for other regions, and

wherein the member is an upward concave shape, the curved surface of the member is divided into a plurality of substantially concentric regions, and the application quantity for a region of the plurality of regions at a more outer position is set larger than the application quantities for the regions at a more inner position.

In claim 12:

dividing the optical lens into a plurality of concentric regions according to a curved shape of the lens, the plurality of concentric regions including a plurality of outer regions and a plurality of inner regions;

applying a treatment liquid from a discharge device onto the optical lens, the treatment liquid being applied according to a desired thickness of the inner regions in relation to the outer regions of the lens; and

varying the thickness of the treatment liquid by adjusting at least one of a volume of the liquid, a weight per droplet of the liquid, and a landing interval of droplets of the liquid.

For these reasons claims 3,4, and 12 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 5-6, 13-17 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alain L. Bashore whose telephone number is 571-272-6739. The examiner can normally be reached on about 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (Mon. thru Thurs.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Alain L. Bashore
Primary Examiner
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